

WATH-UPON-DEARNE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR
1943.

Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.

MEMBERS 1944 to 1945.

Chairman :

Councillor E. W. EVERS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor F. L. BEEVERS.

COUNCILLORS :

F. BAILEY
P. R. BAKER
I. BRAMHAM
H. CUTTS, C.C., J.P.
W. CUTTS
A. FAIRHURST, M.I.Min.E.
E. MORTON

P. B. NICHOLSON, J.P.
D. O. SHAW
C. SMITH
M. R. SWIFT
O. VARNEY
A. WILD

OFFICIALS.

Clerks :

Messrs. NICHOLSON & Co.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. T. CROWLEY, L.R.C.P.S. (I.) & L.M.

Engineer and Surveyor :

Mr. W. E. HAIGH, A.M.I.C.E.

Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. W. W. WILKINSON, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Clerk

Mr. W. H. ROBERTS.

Accountant :

Mr. H. TATTERSALL, A.L.A.A.

Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1943, together with the vital statistics for the year.

1. General Statistics.

Area of the District	...	...	...	...	2,665 acres
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	13,655
Population (1943)	...	...	...	...	12,520
Height above sea-level	...	...	...	...	70 to 325 feet
Number of inhabited houses, 31st December, 1943					3,804
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...		£196
Rateable Value (April, 1943)	...	...	...	...	£52,038
Rainfall for the year	...	...	...	...	19'56 inches
Number of days on which rain fell	...	..	...		145 days
Zymotic death-rate	...	...	...	...	0'319
Tuberculosis death-rate	}	Pulmonary	...	...	Nil
		Other forms	...	...	0'079
Cancer death-rate	...	...	...	...	1'277

2. Social Conditions of the District.

Coal mining is the chief industry in the District, and the majority of the male members of the population are employed in this work. Other industries carried on are manufacture of by-products from coal, glass manufacture and agriculture.

3. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

			Males	Females	Total
Live Births	{	Legitimate - -	128	117	245
		Illegitimate - -	5	3	8
		TOTALS	133	120	253

			Males	Females	Total
Still Births	{	Legitimate - -	1	2	3
		Illegitimate - -	—	—	—
		TOTALS	1	2	3

Birth-rate	{	Live Births - -	20·21 per 1,000 population
		Still Births - -	0·24 per 1,000 population

(The Birth-rate for England & Wales (live births) was 16·5 per 1,000 population)

(The Birth-rate for England & Wales (still births) was 0·51 per 1,000 population)

		Males	Females	Total
Deaths	- - - - -	77	65	142

These figures give a crude death-rate of 11·3 per 1,000 population.

Death-rate for England and Wales is 12·1 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

		Deaths	Rates per 1,000 total (live and still births)
No. 29	Puerperal sepsis - -	Nil	Nil
No. 30	Other maternal causes -	2	7·8
	TOTALS	2	7·8

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	59·3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...				57·1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				125·0
For England and Wales (all infants per 1,000 live births)	...			49·00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	16
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths from All Causes.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Males	Females	Total
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	1	1	2
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	1	—	1
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	2	2
6.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	—	1	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	1	—	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	1	2	3
10.	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	...	...	—	1	1
13.	Cancer	...	...	9	7	16
14.	Diabetes	...	...	1	—	1
15.	Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	8	4	12
16.	Heart disease	...	...	17	15	32
17.	Other diseases of the circulatory system	...	...	1	2	3
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	9	8	17
19.	Pneumonia	...	...	2	5	7
20.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	—	—	—
21.	Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	...	...	—	—	—
22.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Appendicitis	...	...	1	—	1
24.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	—	1	1
25.	Nephritis	...	...	1	1	2
26.	Puerperal and post. abort. sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other maternal causes	...	...	—	2	2
28.	Premature birth	...	...	3	—	3
29.	Congenital debility, malformations, etc.	...	...	3	3	6
30.	Suicide	...	...	2	—	2
31.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Other violent causes	...	...	6	1	7
33.	All other causes	10	8	18
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				77	65	142
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Special Causes (included in No. 33 above):—

Small-pox	—	—	—
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Deaths from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases :—

Enteric fever	—
Small-pox	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
TOTAL							4

The above figures are equal to an annual Zymotic death-rate of 0·319 per 1,000 population as compared with 0·160 in the previous year.

The death-rate for Diarrhoea diseases (under 2 years of age) was nil, that for England and Wales was 5·3 per 1,000 live births.

4. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Compared with 1942 there was an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified.

The following table shows the number of notifications received during the past eight years :—

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Scarlet fever	70	11	24	30	43	24	24	55
Diphtheria	61	125	80	38	94	38	45	43
	(22neg.)	(42 neg.)	(29 neg.)	(11 neg.)	(38 neg.)	(13 neg.)	(14 neg.)	(22 neg.)

5. Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE					Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	DEATHS
Measles	...	...	...	...	30	—	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	61	—	1
Small-pox	...	..	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	55	46	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	43★	43	2
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	9	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	..	15	—	7
Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	..	...	...	...	4	4	2

★ 22 cases were negative.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
45—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1

6. Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions in the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home (Wath and West Melton) :—
2 District Nurses (Charitable Associations).

Midwives (Number practising in the District)	...	...	3
Health Visitors (under the authority of the County Council)			3

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

Name.	Station.	Nature of Accommodation	By whom Provided
Welfare Centre	Dunford House, Doncaster Road, Wath	Waiting Room, Weighing Room, Consultation Room.	County Council.
„	Wesleyan Schoolroom, Princess Street, West Melton.	Waiting Room, Weighing Room, Consultation Room.	County Council.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases :—

Controlled by the County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by Local Authority :—

1. Tuberculosis Nil.
2. Maternity West Riding County Council (Maternity Ward, Montagu Hospital, Mexborough).
3. Children Montagu Hospital, Mexborough.
4. Fever Wath, Swinton & District Joint Hospital Board (Wath Wood Hospital).

Ambulance Facilities :—

(a) Infectious Diseases :—

Three Motor Ambulances (Wath Wood Hospital).

(b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases :—

Motor Ambulance provided jointly by Mexborough, Swinton and Wath Urban District Councils.

7. Laboratory Work.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are submitted to the County Bacteriologist. Free use has been made of this facility during the year.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to Medical Practitioners by the Public Health Department as required.

8. Byelaws.

New Streets and Buildings.	Nuisances.
Common Lodging-houses.	Pleasure Grounds.
Slaughter-houses.	

9. Sanitary Administration.

Details are given in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

10. Public Health Staff.

- ★Medical Officer of Health - T. CROWLEY, L.R.C.P.S. (Ire,) & L.M.
 ★Sanitary Inspector - - - W. W. WILKINSON.

QUALIFICATIONS :

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
 Meat and Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
 Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
 Certificate in Sanitary Science of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

- ★Salaries of both Officers contributed to by Grants.

11. Housing.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	74
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	130
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	3
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	5
(3) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (excluding those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	71

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	63
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 7 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By Owners | 5 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

4. *Number of New Houses erected during the year 1942 :—*

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| (a) By Local Authority | Nil |
| (b) By private enterprise | Nil |

5. *Housing Conditions :—*

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Total number of houses in the District ... | 3859 |
| (2) Number of working-class houses included in the above | 3697 |

Sanitary Conditions of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water for public supply is obtained from boreholes into the Oaks Rock of the coal measures. With the exception of about three houses every house in the District has a piped supply of water laid on into the house.

8 samples of water taken from the public supply were submitted for bacteriological examination. The reports received upon the samples indicated that the water was suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Number of houses not connected to the sewers	...	25
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Sewers found to be in need of improvement :—

Melton Green to Town End sewer.

Main Sewer. Bolton Road Sewer.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken with respect to the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Dustbins were emptied regularly each week during the year, and very few complaints were received with respect to this service.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one public swimming bath in the District and this is owned by the Council. The satisfactory condition of the water is ensured by the plant brought into operation in 1937, which gives continuous purification and sterilisation of the water. No samples of bath water were submitted for examination during the year.

SCHOOLS.

The public elementary schools in your District are kept clean and well ventilated. The water supplied at each school is drawn from the public water supplies, and the general sanitary conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Disinfection of the schools was carried out twice during the year. School children in contact with cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were excluded from school for one week and intimations in all these cases were addressed to the Education Authority.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY :—

Frequent inspections of cowsheds and dairies are made by your Sanitary Inspector to ascertain whether the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order are being complied with. Samples of milk are submitted to the County Medical Officer for bacteriological examination and to the County Analyst for analysis.

(b) MEAT, etc. :—

All meat shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

(c) ADULTERATION, etc. :—

Action under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the West Riding County Council Inspectors; samples of milk are also obtained by the Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion, I beg to acknowledge with thanks the kindness and courtesy I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council and the help I have received from your Deputy Clerk, Surveyor, and Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. CROWLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

December, 1944.

Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wath-upon-Dearne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending
31st December, 1943.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year the following inspections were made:—

Nature of Inspection.	Primary Inspections.	Re-inspections.
Inspection of houses under Housing or Public Health Acts re Housing defects	74	56
Inspection of premises re nuisances	293	324
Cowsheds	78	—
Dairies and Milkshops	22	—
Slaughter-houses	—	—
Foodshops, vans and stalls	79	4
Factories	10	1
Caravans	8	4
Lodging-houses	1	—
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act ...	45	—
Works in progress	42	—
Infectious diseases	80	11
Miscellaneous inspections	95	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	827	402
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Complaints Received.

139 complaints were received at the office and these received immediate attention. The majority of the complaints were concerning urgent nuisances such as choked drains or serious housing defects. In 2 cases it was found that no nuisance existed which could be remedied by action under the Public Health Act. In all other cases informal action was taken to secure abatement of the nuisance, followed by formal action where necessary.

Particulars of Notices served under Public Health Acts.

Number of informal written notices served requiring nuisances and defects to be remedied	...	...	...	144
Number complied with	...	...	...	121
Number of verbal intimations given	...	...	...	55
Number of verbal intimations complied with	...	...	...	48
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	22
Number of statutory notices complied with during the year	...	...	...	★22

★The requirements of three statutory notices were executed by the Council in default of the owners.

Defects Remedied under Public Health Acts.

New drains constructed	...	...	...	...	5
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Drains, gullies, etc., cleansed	...	...	...	...	77
Sink waste pipes trapped, repaired or cleansed	..	...	...	...	5
Additional water-closets provided	...	...	...	...	—
Water-closet structures repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Water-closet fittings repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Dirty water-closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	9
Coal-store structures repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Eaves gutters cleansed, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Defective dustbins renewed	...	...	...	...	86
Accumulations removed	..	...	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	3
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Chimney flues and stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty and/or verminous houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	9
Dry ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	1
Wet ashpits repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Dustbins provided in lieu of ashpits	...	...	...	...	—
Domestic water supply improved	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	14

Sanitary Accommodation.

The following table shows the number of dwelling-houses in the various wards in the district and the sanitary accommodation provided.

WARD	Dwelling-houses	Dwelling-houses with Shops included in Column 1	Shops and Factories	Miscellaneous Buildings	Privies	Water-closets	Fixed Ashpits		Dustbins	Cesspools	Slop-closets
							Wet	Dry			
Central	981	43	43	40	18	1192	9	12	1005	7	1
East	725	32	11	9	26	822	12	3	722	6	—
Wharnccliffe	762	25	24	15	1	907	1	2	836	—	—
Winterwell	655	42	26	12	2	742	1	1	674	—	1
Melton	736	27	23	17	—	807	—	5	740	1	—
Totals	3861	169	127	93	47	4470	23	23	3977	14†	2

† Including 2 for Cowsheds only.

Common Lodging-house.

The one registered common lodging-house in the area was inspected once during the year. It was found to be very clean and well kept.

Eradication of Vermin.

Five houses were dealt with to secure the destruction of bed-bugs. In four cases the houses were cleansed by the occupiers, and one house (a Council house) was cleansed by the local authority after the tenant (the sole occupant of the house) quitted the premises.

Inspection of Factories and Workplaces.

Ten inspections of factories and workplaces were made, and three written notices given. The following improvements were effected :—

Two water-closets cleansed and repaired.
Drainage improved.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies.

At the end of the year milk was produced at 13 farms in the District. Twenty-five cowsheds were in use housing approximately 170 milch cows. As a result of inspections made, 5 written notices were sent and 5 verbal intimations given requiring improvements at these premises.

8 samples of milk were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination. None of the samples was of designated or heat-treated milk. 62% of the samples were reported satisfactory when subjected to the Methylene Blue Test. The following statement shows the results of the examination of the samples :—

Producer's No.	Age of milk when sampled (hours)	Temperature on arrival at Laboratory	Methylene Blue Test. Period before Decolourisation (hours)	REMARKS
5	Nil	—	U.	Unsatisfactory
12	Nil	—	S.	Satisfactory
20	Nil	—	S.	Satisfactory
5	Nil	—	S.	Satisfactory
20	1½	—	1½	Unsatisfactory
18	Nil	—	S.	Satisfactory
1	2	—	S.	Satisfactory
26	2	—	4½	Unsatisfactory

NOTE.—A sample is regarded as satisfactory which is not decolourised at the end of 4½ hours if it has been taken between the 1st of May and the 31st October, or at the end of 5½ hours if taken between the 1st November and the 30th April.

Designated Milk.

Two supplementary licences for the sale by retail of designated milk were granted by the Council, one for the sale of “pasteurised” milk and one for the sale of “tuberculin tested milk.”

Meat and Other Foods.

No premises were licensed for use as slaughter-houses during the year. Inspection of the meat brought into the District was made from time to time and visits paid to food shops to deal with unsound food. The undermentioned food was condemned and destroyed :—

5½ stones fish, 1¼ lbs. bacon and ham, 5 eggs, 3 tins fruit, 1 tin beans, 1 tin salmon, 2½ lbs. sausage, 6¼ lbs. luncheon meat, 9 lbs. cheese, 2 lbs. jam, 1 lb. lemon cheese, 2 pig's heads, 1 tin milk, 3 tins corned mutton, 2 tins sausage meat, 21 sheep's heads, 1½ lbs. sheep's liver, 18 lbs. beef.

Shops Act 1934.

13 inspections were made of shops relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

Improvements were effected in connection with the sanitary conveniences at three shops.

Food and Drugs Act 1938.

83 inspections were made of grocery and provision shops, fried fish shops and other premises where food is sold or prepared for sale.

Unsatisfactory conditions were found and remedied at ten shops during the year.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919.

Duties under this Act have been given due attention. 45 inspections were made in connection with infested premises. Advice and assistance in laying poison baits were given to occupiers. 1 written and 2 verbal intimations were given to occupiers to destroy rats and to remove conditions favouring rat infestation.

Infectious Diseases.

Number of visits after cases of Diphtheria	...	...	31
Number of visits after cases of Scarlet Fever	...	...	43
Number of visits after cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever			3
Number of visits after cases of Measles	...	...	3
Number of houses disinfected	...	...	98

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Two S. & D. freighters, each of 6 cubic yards capacity, were employed in the collection of salvage and refuse. The weekly collection of refuse from dustbins was maintained throughout the year. Dry ash-pits were emptied fortnightly and privies monthly.

All the refuse has been disposed of at the Wet Moor Lane tip which is properly controlled. No trouble was experienced with fires at the tip and no complaints of nuisance from the tip were received.

The following statements with respect to the amount of work done, cost incurred, and quantity of materials collected for salvage, are for the year ending 31st March, 1944.

Summary of Work done.

Receptacles.		Number Emptied.	Number of Loads.
Dustbins	...	191,677	2,610
Dry Ashpits	...	126	42
Privies	...	99	19
Shop Refuse	...	—	88
		Total Number of Loads	<u>2,759</u>

Income and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenditure on refuse collection	2744	0	0			
Expenditure on refuse disposal	875	0	0			
Gross Expenditure				3619	0	0
INCOME	755	0	0			
				755	0	0
Total Expenditure				2864	0	0

Costs, taking income into account, are as follows :—

	Collection	Disposal	Collection and Disposal
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cost per 1,000 houses	722 1 7	31 11 7	753 13 2
Cost per 1,000 population	219 10 5	9 11 2	229 1 7

SALVAGE.

The amounts of the various types of material collected as salvage and sold during the year are shown below. The total amount is nearly 74 tons less than in the previous year, due chiefly to a reduction in the quantity of waste paper, ferrous metals, and kitchen waste collected.

				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
Clean paper	...	...	...	60	4	0
Scrap iron and steel	...	...	...	7	8	2
Loose tins	...	...	...	14	3	0
Non-ferrous metals	...	...	...	—	17	0
Textiles	...	...	...	11	5	0
Bottles and jars	...	...	...	10	19	3
Rubber	...	...	...	—	—	—
Kitchen waste	...	...	...	31	15	3
Bones	...	...	...	3	7	1
Cullet	...	...	...	2	16	2
				142	16	3

Conclusion.

Greater difficulty was experienced in securing necessary repairs to dwelling-houses and the abatement of nuisances, owing to war-time conditions. Full attention could not be given to many duties because of the additional work involved in connection with salvage, civil defence, and billeting.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee for support in the work of the Department, and to all Officials for the assistance they have given to me in connection with my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. W. WILKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

December, 1944.

